

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-05 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-12 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-03

SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20

USIA-15 OIC-04 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /165 W

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R 041515Z OCT 74

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9777

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: UNGA, DA, PFOR

SUBJECT: EC UNGA OBSERVER STATUS ISSUE THREATENS DOMESTIC
POLITICAL CRISIS.

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REF:COPENHAGEN 2707, 2681

BEGIN SUMMARY. ALLEGATIONS THAT FONMIN GULDBERG FAILED TO CONSULT PROPERLY WITH PARLIAMENTARY MARKETS COMMITTEE ON DECISION TO PROCEED WITH OBTAINING EC OBSERVER STATUS AT UNGA ARE BEING USED BY OPPOSITION IN FRONTAL ATTACK ON FONMIN. ISSUE WILL BE RAISED IN PARLIAMENT OCTOBER 11 WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS THREATENING VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN FONMIN. SHOULD MANEUVER SUCCEED QUESTION WILL ARISE WHETHER GOVERNMENT IS OBLIGATED TO RESIGN OR JUST REPLACE FONMIN. FOCUS IS NOW COMPLETELY ON DOMESTIC ASPECTS SINCE OBJECTIONS WITHIN PARLIAMENT TO EC UNGA OBSERVER HAVE BEEN LIFTED. PLAYING OUT OF DOMESTIC DRAMA MAY, HOWEVER, AFFECT ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN DETERMINATION OF DANISH POSITIONS IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS. END SUMMARY.

1. BOTH FOREIGN POLICY COMMITTEE AND MARKETS COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT LAST WEEK AGREED NOT TO OBJECT TO DANISH GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR EC APPLICATION FOR UNGA OBSERVER STATUS. OPPOSITION HAS NOT, HOWEVER, LET THE ISSUE DIE, CHARGING THAT FONMIN GULDBERG FAILED TO CONSULT PROPERLY WITH APPROPRIATE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES IN ADVANCE OF GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL OF THIS STEP. ISSUE WAS FANNED BY PRESS PUBLICATION OCTOBER 3 AND 4 OF ALLEGED TRANSCRIPT OF GULDBERG'S STATEMENT AT SEPTEMBER 17 EC COUNCIL MEETING IN WHICH IN OBFUSCATING FASHION, HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "FOR REASONS NOT VERY UNDERSTANDABLE TO ME" SOME OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN DENMARK MIGHT CONCEIVABLY FAIL TO VOTE FOR EC OBSERVER STATUS AT THE UNGA. WHILE SERVING NOTICE OF THIS POTENTIAL OPPOSITION, HE ALLEGEDLY HASTENED TO ASSURE THE COUNCIL THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL. IN FOCUSING ON THESE REMARKS THE OPPOSITION CHARGES THAT GULDBERG FAILED TO OBSERVE A "MANDATE" WHICH THE PARLIAMENTARY MARKETS COMMITTEE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TEE HAD GIVEN HIM TO TAKE A POSITION OPPOSING AN EC UNGA OBSERVER.

2. WHILE THE CHARGES ARE CLEAR, THE FACTS ARE NOT. THE OPPOSITION CLAIMS THE FOLLOWING SEQUENCE OF EVENTS, ON SEPTEMBER 12 SOME MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION ON THE DANISH UNGA DELEGATION READ THEIR BRIEFING MA

TERIAL AND FOUND THAT EC OBSERVER QUESTION WAS ON THE AGENDA. ON THAT DAY AND THE NEXT, THEY RAISED THE ISSUE WITH GULDBERG IN BOTH THE FOREIGN POLICY COMMITTEE AND MARKETS COMMITTEE IN MANNER WHICH ALLEGEDLY MADE CLEAR THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION TO THE MOVE. THEY CLAIM THAT GULDBERG INADEQUATELY EXPRESSED THIS OPPOSITION AT THE SEPTEMBER 17 EC COUNCIL MEETING.

3. FONOFF DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKET AFFAIRS WANDEL, PETERSON TOLD US THAT THE UNGA OBSERVER QUESTION WAS NOT THE KIND OF ISSUE THE GOVERNMENT WAS REQUIRED TO DISCUSS WITH THE MARKETS COMMITTEE UNDER THE AGREEMENT REACHED LAST YEAR(SEE COPENHAGEN 2681 FOR BACKGROUND) HE NOTED THAT ARTICLE 229 OF TREATY OF ROME PROVIDES THAT "THE COMMISSION SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING ALLSUITABLE CONTACTS WITH THE ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS..." W-P SAID THEREFORE NO POLICY DECISION WAS INVOLVED SINCE THE COMMISSION ALREADY HAD THE AUTHORITY FROM ADHERING GOVERNMENTS TO PROCEED. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE QUESTION WAS FAVORABLY CONSIDERED BY THE EC PARLIAMENT LAST JUNE AT WHICH TIME NINE MEMBERS OF THE DANISH PARLIAMENT WERE PRESENT INCLUDING THE THEN-CHAIRMAN OF THE MARKETS COMMITTEE,

4. TO COMPOUND HIS PROBLEMS WITH PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION GULDBERG REPORTEDLY HAD PROMISED THE MARKETS COMMITTEE IN A LATE NIGHT SESSION SEPTEMBER 20 ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW YORK THAT HE WOULD AT THAT LATE DATE STILL TRY TO "DO SOMETHING" ABOUT MATTER INCLUDING OBTAINING EC AGREEMENT TO POSTPONE SUBMISSION OF UNGA RESOLUTION ON OBSERVER STATUS. APPARENTLY HE DID TRY BUT WAS TURNED DOWN FLAT. IT WAS AT THE POINT THAT PM HARTLINE STEPPED IN AND CONVINCED THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES TO OBJECT NO FURTHER TO THE EC ACTION.

5. A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ON GULDBERG'S HANDLING OF THIS ISSUE IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 11. SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE SAID THAT IF SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION ARE NOT RECEIVED THEY WILL MOVE A NO CONFIDENCE VOTE AGAINST THE FONMIN. WHETHER THIS WOULD FORCE RESIGNATION OF GOVERN

MENT IS UNCLEAR SINCE NO ONE RECALLS SIMILAR VOTE IN PAST AGAINST OTHER THAN PM, AND CONSTITUTION IS NOT PRECISE ON SUCH SITUATION. THEREFORE WHILE IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER GOVERNMENT IS ONCE AGAIN IN JEOPARDY IT IS CLEAR THAT FONMIN GULDBERG'S JOB IS ON THE LINE. WHETHER OR NOT HE PASSES NEXT WEEK'S PARLIAMENTARY TEST IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE WILL EITHER HAVE TO BE REPLACED OR BE REQUIRED TO DIVIDE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AGAIN AS WAS THE CASE IN THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT WHERE SEPARATE MINISTERS HEADED THE ECONOMIC (INCLUDING EC) AND POLITICAL SIDES OF THE MINISTRY'S OPERATIONS.

6. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HANDLING COMMUNITY MATTERS ARE ALSO DISTURBED OVER THE POTENTIAL LONGER-RANGE EFFECTS OF THE CURRENT SQUABBLE. THE AGREEMENT WITH THE MARKETS COMMITTEE LAST YEAR TO SUBMIT IMPORTANT COMMUNITY QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE WAS DELIBERATELY LEFT VAGUE. THE GOVERNMENT WISHED, ABOVE ALL TO AVOID IMPLICATION THAT COMMITTEE HAD VETO POWER OVER ITS DECISIONS ON EC POSITIONS ALTHOUGH THIS POSSIBILITY WAS INHERENT IN THE AGREEMENT. THE ANTI-MARKETEERS ON THE COMMITTEE WHO ARE STILL A SMALL MINORITY, AND POSSIBLY OTHERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR THEIR OWN POLITICAL REASONS, WOULD LIKE TO USE THE PRESENT ISSUE TO ENHANCE THE COMMITTEE'S POWER IN DANISH DECISION MAKING ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS. WHETHER THEY SUCCEED OR NOT WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT BEARING ON DENMARK'S FUTURE RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY. CROWE

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